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FOUR STATES FINED ₹20 CR FOR POLLUTING RIVER GANGA

Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar and West Bengal told to pay the sum for failing to stop untreated sewage from flowing into Ganga

IN LINE WITH NGT'S DECEMBER ORDER

Wednesday's move by the Central Pollution Control Board comes following a National Green Tribunal order in last December, directing it to calculate environmental compensation (EC) and raise demands with the states through which the Ganga flows, in case sewage treatment plant projects are not completed in drains or interim measures not taken after Nov 1, 2019

UTTAR PRADESH ASKED TO PAY ₹18 CRORE

Despite the order, none of the four states has yet deposited the compensation while reminders have been sent to all
A total of 131 drains dump untreated water into the river
Uttar Pradesh has to deposit ₹18 crore and Bihar ₹1.2 crore. Together these states account for as many as 128 drains | P3

₹5 lakh
UP, UTTARANCHAL, BIHAR TO PAY PER MONTH PER DRAIN FOR 3 MONTHS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VYARAVADA • BENGALURU • KODI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KODAKKOT • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • DELHI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVMOGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNEELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • CHAMPAUR • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARRANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURGI

UNEASY CALM HANGS OVER RIOT-HIT AREAS; 193 HELD

District executive magistrate to probe Tuesday's violence, arson in Kaval Byrasandra area

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai says cost of damage to property will be recovered from rioters

Three dead, 33 people sustain injuries; scores of police and private vehicles torched, damaged

NG CHETAN @Bengaluru

A day after violence and arson broke out in Kaval Byrasandra area in DJ Halli police limits on Tuesday night, the city police arrested 193 people and registered 12 First Information Reports (FIRs) in two police stations in connection with the incident.

A 3,000-strong mob had attacked and set ablaze Pulakeshi Nagar constituency Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy's house. The arson and rioting led to the deaths of three persons when the police resorted to firing. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Wednesday ordered a probe into the incident by the District Executive Magistrate.

An offensive Facebook post, allegedly posted by P Naveen, nephew of Srinivasa Murthy, is said to have sparked the widespread violence in Kaval Byrasandra which started with the attack on the MLA's house. Official sources said that besides the three deaths, 33 people, including 14 policemen, were injured while 50 two-wheelers and 19 four-wheelers, including police vehicles, were torched or damaged.

The three dead have been identified as Wajid Khan (19), a cook, Yasin Pasha (22), who worked in a mutton stall (both residents of DJ Halli), and Sheikh Siddique (24), an auto driver and resident of Naga-

wara. The autopsy of the two deceased was conducted at Bowring Hospital, while the other tested positive for COVID-19. The last rites were conducted at a cemetery located on Nandidurga Road amidst tight police security.

Television journalist Noian Pinto and digital media journalist Prajwal sustained injuries when police personnel at the spot allegedly roughed them up with lathis, while another regional TV journalist was injured when the mob targeted him.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai and leaders of the opposition Congress visited the spot on Wednesday and took stock of the situation, after which he said the cost of damage will be recovered from the rioters. Curfew has been extended in the two police station limits till 6 am on Saturday.

The angry mob had attacked the MLA's residence in Kaval Byrasandra by pelting stones. Soon, the mob surrounded the house and allegedly threw petrol bombs and torched it.

By that time, thousands had gathered in front of DJ Halli and KG Halli police stations seeking action against Naveen. Before the police could mobilise enough personnel, the situation spun out of control as mobsters started pelting stones at the police stations, damaging police and private vehicles. P2



Charred remains of vehicles set on fire by an angry mob in Bengaluru. Right: The residence of Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy which came under attack on Tuesday night | VINOD KUMAR T



I have ordered strict action against miscreants and an enquiry by the District Executive Magistrate
Tweet by CM BS Yediyurappa



NIGHT OF HORROR

Widespread violence breaks out in Kaval Byrasandra, dozens of people attack the MLA's residence on Tuesday night over a sacrilegious Facebook post

Mobsters torch the house of the MLA, allegedly using petrol bombs. P Naveen, the MLA's nephew, surrenders before the police claiming that his Facebook account is hacked. Naveen's house is ransacked too

Thousands gather in front of DJ Halli and KG Halli police stations. Set DJ Halli police station on fire

As mob continues its rampage by torching police vehicles and pelting stones on houses in KG Halli, the police open fire at the mob. Three are killed

Arsonists not from my constituency: MLA

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE violence on Tuesday night in Bengaluru East, in which three people lost their lives in police firing and several others including some media persons and over 50 policemen were injured, was "pre-planned", according to top official sources.

"The speed, the scale and preparedness for the violence and outrage that the mobsters had unleashed at the DJ Halli police station, surrounding areas and Pulakeshi Nagar MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy's house in Kaval Byrasandra is disproportionate to the provocation behind the violence - a highly objectionable post by his nephew P Naveen. It was as if the rioters were prepared and waiting for an opportune moment. It was like an outburst of pent-up anger, which only needed a trigger," said sources on condition of anonymity.

"The DJ Halli police were informed about accused P Naveen's objectionable post on Facebook by someone around 7pm and even as they were in the process of informing their senior officers, around 7.30 pm, Muzammil Pasha of the Secular Democratic Party of India (SDPI), along with a group of around 15-20 people, walked into the police station pretending to be a peace broker. Within minutes, the DJ Halli police station was gheraoed and damaged by hundreds of arsonists. The police were unprepared for the scale of violence. The arson continued till the police firing started around 10.30pm," said the officer.

"The police are sieving through WhatsApp messages of the arrested to verify the mastermind behind the attack. We are also checking Naveen's social media posts," he added.

CONTINUED ON: P7

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS UNDER SCANNER

The accused P Naveen (25) had allegedly posted a sacrilegious post on his Facebook page, which was deleted soon after it went viral and led to Tuesday violence. According to some unconfirmed reports, Naveen had posted the objectionable material allegedly in reaction to a derogatory post against a Hindu deity which was posted on social media some time back. The police have, however, refused to comment on the matter. "We are investigating the social media posts of Naveen and some others, who have been arrested for their involvement in the riots," said a police officer.

INSIDE SHAKEN BY VANDALISM, CONGRESS MLA SEEKS PROTECTION | P2

POLITICAL CONSPIRACY TO CREATE UNREST, SAYS NALIN KUMAR KATEEL | P3

GOVT MULLING BAN ON PFI, SDPI, SAYS HOME MINISTER BOMMAI | P3

GHASTLY INCIDENT

Five of family die as bus catches fire on highway

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @Chitradurga

FIVE members of a family were killed on the spot when a Bengaluru-bound private bus from Vijayapura caught fire at Kasturi Rangappa Halli Gate near Javanagondanahalli in Hiriyur taluk on the Pune-Bengaluru National Highway-48 early on Wednesday. Four others were hospitalised with injuries. There were 29 passengers on board the bus.



Rescue workers near the charred remains of the bus | EXPRESS

The deceased are Sheela (33), her daughter Sparsha (8) and son Samrudh (5), sister Kavitha (29) and her daughter Nischitha (3). They were on the way to Bengaluru from Ganesh Nagar in Vijayapura. Sheela and Kavitha were staying at Virgo Nagar in Bengaluru where they worked as domestic helps.

The injured Dr Chowhan (33), Basavaraj (22) and Prashanth (23) are undergo-

ing treatment at the taluk hospital in Hiriyur while Mansoor Patel from Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, was shifted to a Bengaluru hospital. According to the police, the bus caught fire around 4 am and the Chitradurga RTO is investigating the cause.

One of the passengers said the driver and cleaner stopped the bus and jumped out when the fire started near the engine.

CONTINUED ON: P7

States told not to procure Covid-19 vaccine directly

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

AN expert group on Covid-19 vaccine administration, which formally met for the first time on Wednesday, has asked states not to procure vaccines themselves as the procurement will be done centrally.

The directive came in the backdrop of some states showing interest in tying up with Russia, which on Tuesday registered Sputnik V, the world's

first Covid-19 vaccine. The meeting was chaired by Dr V K Paul, Member Niti Aayog, along with Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan as co-chair.

A senior member of the committee told TNIE that India will not procure Sputnik V as it has not even completed phase 3 clinical trials. Also, the full details of its early human

trials are not available. "Even the WHO points out that the earliest time horizon we're looking at is January next year for any vaccine to pass our safety and efficacy parameters," he said.

Meanwhile, Russia has claimed phase-3 trials of its vaccine will be conducted in various countries including India. It has also listed India as a partner country for mass produc-

tion of the vaccine.

However, Union Health Ministry and the ICMR sources said they are unaware of any such deal with Russia.

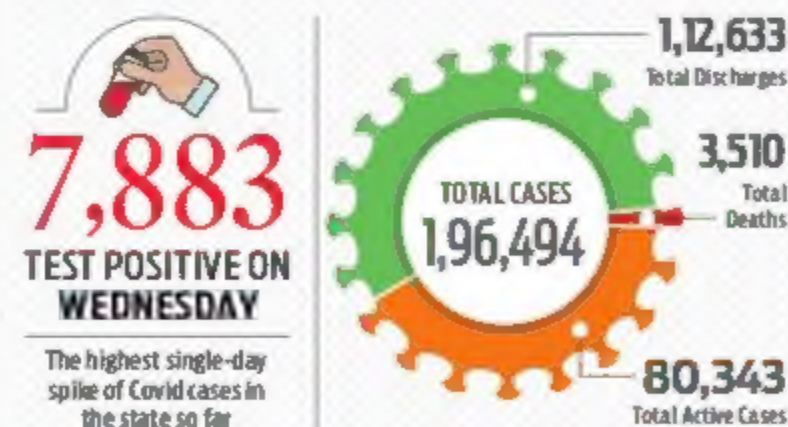
The expert group, which met on Wednesday, discussed the modalities for creating a robust digital infrastructure to track the vaccination process, inventory management as well as last-mile delivery.

"The expert group discussed the financial resources re-

quired for procurement of Covid-19 vaccine and various options of financing the same," a government release read.

India is also looking to support its key neighbours and development partner countries for Covid-19 vaccines. The government has made it clear it will leverage domestic vaccine manufacturing capacity and engage with all international players for early delivery of vaccines. P9

KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE



Former CM Siddaramaiah recovers, to be discharged from hospital
Bengaluru Urban district witnesses a whopping 2,802 positive cases on Wednesday
State reports 113 fatalities during the day

Hassan taluk authorities to conduct swab tests of 2,000 patients a day
FULL COVERAGE | P4

EXPRESS READ

Pranab continues to be critical, says hospital

New Delhi: The condition of former President Pranab Mukherjee continues to be critical and he remains on ventilator support, the Army's Research and Referral Hospital said on Wednesday. He was admitted to the hospital on August 10.

LCH choppers deployed at Leh

Bengaluru: The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited said on Wednesday that two Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) produced by it have been deployed for operations at high altitude (Leh sector) at short notice to support Indian Air Force missions.

UK plunges into deep recession

London: The UK economy plunged into a deep recession, as it shrank 20.4% between April and June at the height of the lockdown. Reacting to Office for National Statistics data, UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak admitted that many more jobs will be lost. P11

Indian-origin Kamala Harris is Biden's choice for veep

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @New Delhi

DEMOCRATIC US presidential candidate Joe Biden on Tuesday night named Indian-origin Kamala Devi Harris as his running mate, evoking waves of cheers from the Indian community in the US.

Harris was born to two immigrant parents. Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was born in Chennai and immigrated to the US in 1960. Her father, Donald Harris, was born in Jamaica.

Those close to her say, Harris grew up embracing the Indian culture. So, given her strong bonds with India, what impact would she have on India-US ties, if Biden wins the election in November and she become the Vice President?

Harris has been a vocal supporter of human rights, and has expressed concerns over the alleged human rights violations in Kashmir.

But, experts say it is unlikely that as VP, she will have a huge



impact on Washington's ties with New Delhi. "Human rights in India have

More progressive than Biden

Harris is a California Senator and former prez candidate.
Her mother was born in Chennai. Her uncle says she understands a bit of Tamil.
Harris has shown herself to be more progressive than Biden. She backed Medicare for All early on.

our actions in Jammu and Kashmir last year and also the CAA have drawn greater Congressional scrutiny which has not impacted the trajectory of the overall US-India relations. Bilateral relations with India are not viewed in the prism of human rights alone. Hence, if elected, Kamala Harris as vice-president, though a vocal supporter of human rights, will not make a big difference to India-US ties," Harinder Shekhon, an expert on India-US relations,

said on Wednesday.

Shekhon also feels Indian-American community's hopes that Harris would accord a greater priority to visa issues is a misplaced. "I think it will be business as usual post the election," she said.

A former Indian diplomat said it was important to note that Harris would only be the vice-president.

"A vice-president does not really draw the US foreign policy," he said. MORE ON: P11